



Arkansas Railroader



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LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 3 MARCH 1979 W. A "BILL" MERCK EDITOR

10TH ANNIVERSARY

Our February meeting was a great one and our thanks go to Fred Fillers for his fine moving pictures and slides on the Southern Pacific and Pacific Electric. Our genial and fine Prez, Bill Bailey, presented framed certificates of appreciation for jobs well done to Dick Byrd, Ross Holt, Naomi Hull, Bill Alessi, and Ye 'Ed. Thanks Bill and want you to know we are all proud of these nice certificates.

MARCH PROGRAM: The program for March will be given by Mr. B. B. Garrett, Special Assistant, Cotton Belt Railroad, Tyler, Texas. Mr. Garrett has recently been assigned the duty of handling Operation Life Saver for the Cotton Belt. This includes safety film on crossing accidents and other related film. In addition, Mr. Garrett will show slides made on the 100th Anniversary of the Cotton Belt at the famous W HITTLE STOP RANCH located at Flint, Texas. Mr. Garrett is president and owner of the famous ranch. This promises to be a very interesting program and hope we will have a good attendance. Please tell your friends about it and try and bring them to the meeting. Meeting date is March 11th starting at 2 PM at the Mo. Pacific Office Building in North Little Rock.

NEW MEMBERS: We are still getting off to a good start this year in our membership drive. We welcome the following additional new members:

B.B. Garrett----- Tyler, Texas
Guy E. Pestino Jr.---- Little Rock, Ark.
L.E. Sale----- Little Rock, Ark.

Mr. Garrett, as explained above, is Special Assistant, Cotton Belt Railroad, Tyler, Texas. Mr. Pestino is the owner of Ex-GMO-IOG business car which is now spotted on Bob Dertch's Scott & Bearskin Lake R.R. property at Scott, Ark. Mr. Sale is a regular operator at the big flea market located south of Little Rock on the Benton highway. Again, welcome to our club.

SOME PASSENGER TRAINS THAT WERE NAMED FOR BIRDS

CHICAGO & ALTON-BURLINGTON (Joint TRAINS) --- THE NIGHTHAWK
C&EI-L&N (Joint Trains) ----- THE HUMMINGBIRD
PRR-SOUTHERN (Joint Trains)----- THE PELICAN
WABASH----- THE BLUEBIRD
MOP-T&P (Joint Trains)----- THE EAGLES
SOUTHERN PACIFIC----- THE LARK - THE OWL
KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN----- THE FLYING CROW
RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN----- THE GALLOPING GOOSE **

**--Bird or Fowl?? Is there a difference?

NEWSLETTER PRINTING INCREASE; Due to circumstances beyond your editor's control, we have had to find another source of printing the ARKANSAS RAILROADER. Prices will now be more than we heretofore had to pay and it will now be impossible to accept any news articles, stories, etc. that will run more than one page. Printing and postage like everything else these days are getting out of reach. Will ask that you be governed accordingly. Thanks.

ANOTHER ONE FOR THE SOUTHERN'S IRON HORSE STABLE; With the February issue of the NRHS NEWS EXTRA enclosed was a copy of a flyer issued by the ROANOKE CHAPTER, NRHS; Roanoke, Va. to the effect that the Southern Railway recently announced that it had leased ex-CP "Royal Hudson" 2839 which has been in storage at Northampton, Pennsylvania. Southern has leased the Montreal-built 4-6-4 (1937) for a one year period and it will join the 4501 and 610 on the Southern's big engine roster. Roanoke Chapter will sponsor a special ferry trip with the engine from Alexandria, Virginia to Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday-Sunday, March 3rd and 4th as part of the engine's journey to Birmingham, Ala. to join the "green and gold" of the Southern. (Editor's note-This is indeed very good news to see another fine steam loco in the south. Wish we could see it at Memphis this year for the excursion to Corinth, etc. Keep your fingers crossed.)

The Department Of Transportation's recommended Amtrak route system eliminates the Inter-American route from Chicago to Laredo via Little Rock. What's going to happen to our train is anybody's guess. This route, as possibly all other Amtrak routes, badly needs publicity and advertising. It is hard to believe that there are citizens in Little Rock and surrounding area who still do not know that Arkansas has an Amtrak train. Many of these people would like to ride a train again. If handled in the right manner ridership would be so heavy that Amtrak might have to add another route thru our state. Whether we like it or not we may as well kiss goodbye forever the former fine passenger trains we once had. Only our excursion runs now offer an opportunity to experience passenger train rides like they once were. We trust that Amtrak will keep The Crescent (formerly Southern Crescent) operating in a fine manner as did the Southern Railway. This remains to be seen. Since we are a rail group it may be well for all of our members to write our duly elected representatives in Congress to do their utmost to keep the Inter-American in the route system. We understand, at this writing, that Senator David Pryor is all for keeping the route. We do not know the attitude of Congressmen Bethune, Alexander and Hammerschmidt; however we are sure, from past experiences, that Senator Dale Bumpers is all for eliminating the train. Too bad that the system has to be in politics but you cannot expect anything else with government funds poured into its operation. As for subsidies given to Amtrak; do you know that if the airlines did not get subsidies that it would cost \$1,000.(One thousand dollars) for a one way ticket from Los Angeles to New York. Something to think about.

We think that it is in order to give a word of thanks to Mrs. H. B. Fite (Carol) who is one of our good and loyal members, for those wonderful cookies, cakes and coffee that she brings to most of our meetings. They help to make a good meeting even better. Thanks again Carol.

So long for now--See all of you at the March meeting.

The Ark.R.R. Club is a non-profit organization. Regular meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at the MOP Office Building in North Little Rock. Visitors always welcome and refreshments usually available thru the courtesy of Carol Fite. Send all news items and exchange newsletters to editor at address 5007 Hawthorne Rd. Little Rock, Ark. 72207.